



Consumer Services Department

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CSD *News Release*

April 02, 2002

CSD HOLDS TWO SMALL CLAIMS COURT CLINICS THIS MONTH

The Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department will host two Small Claims Court Clinics this month, at which the County's Consumer Advocate, Leonard Elias, will outline the Small Claims Court process in a step-by-step manner, from the initial filing through the collection on a judgment.

The first clinic will be held this Thursday evening, April 4 at the North Bay Village City Hall, 7903 East Drive in North Bay Village, beginning at seven o'clock. The second clinic will take place Tuesday evening, April 9 at the Miami Lakes Public Library, 6699 Windmill Gate Road, also starting at seven o'clock.

The Small Claims Court process can be used to resolve disputes in which the settlement is less than \$5,000 and Consumer Services Department offers clinics at venues across Miami-Dade County to inform residents as to how to use the process.

The sessions are conducted by Elias, a practicing attorney since 1975 and the County's Consumer Advocate since 1987. He explains how to prepare, what to expect, and provides a packet of sample legal forms.

Normally the clinics are offered monthly. However, for the second time this year, there will be two clinics in a single month. In February, during National Consumer Protection Week, clinics were held in Miami Beach and in South Dade.

Other clinics this year have been held in North Miami Beach and in Coral Gables.

The Small Claims Court Clinics are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

For additional information, please call the Consumer Hotline at (305) 375-3677 [END]

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.